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INAUGURAL WELLNESS EXPO IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY



Contact:

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Pensacola, Fla. – In observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County's (FDOH-Escambia) is participating in the Inaugural *Who Got Game* Wellness Expo. The event aims to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing and knowing your HIV status. The Wellness Expo is open and free to the public.

What: Inaugural *Who Got Game* Wellness Expo

When: Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Brownsville Community Center: 3200 West DeSoto Street, Pensacola, FL 32505

The Wellness Expo will feature free food, basketball games, live musical performances, and more. Community partners encourage testing and will provide attendees with free health screenings, immunization and wellness services.

NBHAAD is an annual observance to encourage people to get an HIV test. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of their routine health care. People at higher risk should get tested more often.

The four-year trend from 2014-2018 shows a 31.6% decrease in HIV incidence among blacks in Escambia County, Florida. "This is mainly attributed through education, testing via outreach efforts, and identifying new HIV-positive individuals," said FDOH-Escambia's Surveillance and Linkage Specialist Maurice Moody. "Placing newly diagnosed people in care can lead to a suppressed viral load, making them less likely to transmit HIV." Although the four-year trend shows a tremendous improvement, blacks in Escambia County, Florida are disproportionately impacted, comprising 46.6% of the new cases in 2018 while making up only 22.7% of the population. FDOH-Escambia's focused outreach, testing, and education efforts aim to address this health disparity affecting the community.

For more information about HIV/AIDS resources, contact the FDOH-Escambia HIV/AIDS Program at 850-595-6500 x 1500 or visit www.EscambiaHealth.com.

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